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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

Tumble Beacon,
Banstead,
Surrey, England.

3rd November, 1959.

Mr. B. V. Morrison,
Pass Christian,
Mississippi, U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

Your name was given to me by Mr. John L. Creech, of the United States Department of Agriculture. I am trying to establish an authentic collection of the fifty Kurume Azaleas imported into America in 1919 by Dr. E. H. Wilson, the famous American plant collector.

In Britain we have so-called "Wilson Fifty" collections, but they contain many spurious plants. This is because the plants were obtained direct from Japan many years after Wilson's discovery, and the Japanese nurserymen had changed many names.

In this country we consider Wilson's discovery of the Kurume Azaleas to be of great historic importance, and I am hoping that you will assist me to establish identification of the correct plants. If by chance you have all the fifty, then the easiest way is to arrange for me to import small plants or rooted cuttings of the complete collection, and then I can make sure of the identity of every plant, and weed out the impostors.

But in case you have only part of the collection, I enclose a description of those plants in our collections, which are either obviously wrong, or at any rate doubtful, and if you have any or all of these numbers I would be very grateful if you would arrange for me to receive them. Naturally I would pay all costs, or if you prefer it, I would supply rare hybrids or species rhododendrons from my collection, as required by you in exchange.

I have included in my descriptions H.C.C. numbers, which indicate the exact colour in the Horticultural Colour Chart published by the Royal Horticultural Society in London.

Yours sincerely,

Leslie Riggall
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- No: 1
SEIKAI
The plant we have is the same as No: 3, SHIN SEIKAI.
This is a small white (primrose flush in centre,
H.C.C.601/3) hose-in-hose, narrow pointed petals
out-curved.
Wilson's description: White, hose in hose.
- No: 5
NANI WAGATA
We have a white suffused with pale mauve, H.C.C.527/3
with a blotch of reddish spots.
Wilson's description: White, suffused with salmon-pink.
- No: 7
HACHIKA TSUGI
We have white centre shading to mauve margin,
H.C.C.630/2 to 630/3.
Wilson's description: White, suffused with lavender.
- No: 8
IROHAYAMA
We have the same as No: 7, HACHIKA TSUGI. Can you
tell me which is which?
Wilson's description: White margined with pale lavender.
- No: 10
SUIYOHI
We have again the same as No: 7.
Wilson's description: Flesh-colour.
- No: 12
KASUMI GASEKI
Small white, flushed mauve pink, H.C.C.527/3, opens
flat. (This one may be correct).
Wilson's description: Pale pink.
- No: 14
ASAGASUMI
White suffused with pale lavender, H.C.C.527/3, faint
orange blotch, slightly hose-in-hose.
Wilson's description: Rose-pink, hose-in-hose.
- No: 15
KIMIGAYO
Small, often badly shaped flower, creamy centre shading
to pink, H.C.C.24/2 and 24/3. It seems unlikely
that Wilson would have selected such a poor flower.
Wilson's description: Pink.
- No: 16
AZUMA KAGAMI
We have blush flower shaded pink, H.C.C.621/2 and 621/3,
red blotch, hose-in-hose, large flower. This is the
same as our No: 9, HOO.
Wilson's description: No: 9, White tinged with pink.
No:16, Deep pink, hose-in-hose.
- No: 21
SAOTOME
Rose flowers, H.C.C.527 to 527/1, long white stamens,
This may be right. Can you identify it by the
stamens?
Wilson's description: Rose-colour.

- No: 23 Rosy red, small flower, H.C.C. 23 to 23/1. Must be wrong.
TAMAFUYO Wilson's description: White, striped peach colour.
- No: 27 Fuchsia pink, H.C.C. 627/1 to 627/2, faint blotch, slightly frilled petals.
KATSURA NO HANA Wilson's description: Rose colour.
- No: 29 Did not flower at the right time, probably not Kurume at all
KUMO NO UYE Wilson's description: Pure salmon.
- No: 31 White, suffused with pale lavender, H.C.C. 630/3, brownish-red blotch, slightly, hose-in-hose.
SUGA NO ITO Wilson's description: Pure pink.
- No: 34 We have the same as No: 31, SUGA NO ITO. Must be wrong.
SUETSUMU Wilson's description: Crimson.
- No: 35 We have white with slight lavender flush, H.C.C. 630/3. Must be wrong.
FUDESUTE YAMA Wilson's description: Light red.
- No: 38 We have same as No: 23.
TAKA KASANE Wilson's description: Red.
- No: 39 Again the same as No: 23. Must be wrong.
YAYEHIRYU Wilson's description: Bright scarlet, hose-in-hose.
- No: 41 We have white with slight pink blush, H.C.C. 625/3. Must be wrong.
AGEMAKI Wilson's description: Carmine.
- No: 46 We have rosy pink H.C.C. 625/1 to 625/2. Must be wrong.
GOSHO ZAKURA Wilson's description: White, striped peach-colour.
- No: 47 We have pale salmon, H.C.C. 620/1 to 620/2, red blotch, large open flower, loosely hose-in-hose.
UKAMUSE Wilson's description: Vermilion, hose-in-hose.
- No: 48 We have bright rosy carmine H.C.C. 625, very faint blotch.
HINODE NO TAKA Wilson's description: Crimson.
- No: 50 We have same as No: 23.
HANA ASOBI Wilson's description: Red.